

# INL Intelligence

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**A high-level monthly briefing on operations and activities at the U.S. Department of Energy's Idaho National Laboratory**  
Work at the lab advances the Department's strategic goals in the areas of energy, environment, defense and science.

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## ■ New DOE Assistant Secretary Visits Idaho

Dennis Spurgeon, sworn in as Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Energy earlier this month, has already paid his first visit to Idaho National Laboratory. Spurgeon spent April 24 and 25 meeting with laboratory managers and employees and touring research facilities. He told employees he sees the resurgence in interest in nuclear energy as a historic opportunity. And he reminded them that INL has a key role to play in keeping the nuclear renaissance going. Spurgeon is responsible for the Department of Energy's nationwide nuclear energy enterprise, including nuclear technology research and development, management of the Department's nuclear technology infrastructure and support for U.S. nuclear education. Spurgeon also leads the recently announced Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP), a comprehensive strategy aimed at accelerating the demonstration of a more proliferation-resistant closed fuel cycle and bringing the benefits of nuclear energy to the world in a safer and more secure manner, reducing the possibility that nuclear energy could be used for nonpeaceful purposes.

## ■ New Web Resource Unveiled

In a joint effort between INL and Idaho State University – with support from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and the Idaho Mining Association – a new Internet site that offers information on the concentration of selenium and other compounds in soils, plants and surface waters in the vicinity of phosphate mining operations in southeastern Idaho has been launched. The primary funding to develop this Web site was secured by Idaho's congressional delegation, and was made available through an interagency agreement between EPA Region 10 and DOE's Idaho Operations Office. The Web site address is: <http://giscenter-ims.isu.edu/SISP>.

## ■ Lab Awards Grants to Advance Science and Math Teachers' Efforts

INL earlier this month awarded \$70,000 in grants to Idaho schools and teachers to improve math, science and technology education. The grants came from Battelle Energy Alliance, the managing and operating contractor of INL for the DOE. The INL Teacher Mini Grant program is designed to recognize and support excellence in teaching by providing funds to enhance public and private elementary, middle school and high school science, mathematics and technology programs. Teachers applied for up to \$2,000 per grant. The primary purpose of the grant is to provide for classroom equipment, material or teacher professional development.

## ■ Annual Hispanic Youth Symposium Kicks Off

Some 300 Hispanic high school students from 89 schools across Idaho are spending the last three days of the month in Sun Valley as part of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Hispanic Youth Symposium. The students will attend scientific and educational workshops, hear motivational speakers and vie for college scholarships worth an estimated \$400,000. Sponsors of the symposium are the U.S. Department of Energy, INL, Gem State Diversity Initiatives and several state agencies and employers.

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